

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Bill O'Leksy

April 14, 2016

## **A PLAN FOR MOVING AHEAD WITH COMMUNITY LIBRARY SERVICE**

### **Background:**

- Library building below minimum standards for population since late 80s, now at 50% of minimum state standards for our served population.
- Building out of ADA compliance. Three year deadline? Cost est. \$.5-1M.
- 2008 SPLOST Library allocation invested in site preparation for new courthouse.
- \$1M stuck in 2014 SPLOST with no plan for use.
- Existing Community disappointment in being dropped from 2008 State construction list.
- Cannot request state assistance, nor apply for any grant, nor expect taxpayer/donor support, without County commitment in form of a plan.
- 2016 elections has potential for additional delay in getting off TDC with a plan.
- Problem is complex: 1. Competing demands for available revenues. 2. Competing plans for county facility land use. 3. Evolution of modern library services in a community.

### **Recommendation: A Task Force to explore and evaluate alternatives toward providing adequate library and associated community services to Lumpkin County.**

- Objective: Recommend a plan to move forward for BOC.
- Members appointed by BOC Chairman. Essential criteria:
  - Strategic planning experience.
  - Comfortable talking about the \$Millions needed.
  - Public credibility in showing concern for community needs.
- Target dates in time to influence 2017 funding decisions where possible.

### **Nominations:**

Steve Gooch (Development Authority, Georgia State connections)

Mac McConnell (UNG VP for Finance, funding, construction project experience)

Larry Odom (President, United Community Bank, banking, funding options)

Stan Kelley (County Manager as conduit to county systems and BOC)

Bill O'Leksy (Conduit to Regional and State Library systems)

Others (May be added at suggestion of the TF members, or at the recommendation of BOC.)

[Outside advice will be sought as necessary to consult in areas of special expertise e.g. from CRLS or the Georgia Library administration.]